

CLAIMS:

1. An inhalation device for use with a medicament pack in which at least one container for medicament in powder form is defined between two members peelably secured to one another, the device comprising means defining an opening station for the said at least one container; means for peeling the members apart at the opening station to open the container; and an outlet, communicating with the opened container, through which a user can inhale medicament in powder form from the opened container.

2. A device according to claim 1, adapted for use where the said two members are two sheets.

3. A device according to claim 2, adapted for use where the sheets are elongate sheets which define a plurality of medicament containers spaced along the length thereof, the device being provided with indexing means for indexing each container in turn in communication with the outlet.

4. A device according to claim 3, adapted for use

where one of the sheets is a base sheet having a plurality of pockets therein, and the other of the sheets is a lid sheet, each pocket and the adjacent part of the lid sheet defining a respective one of the containers, the device comprising driving means for pulling the lid sheet and base sheet apart at the opening station.

5. A device according to claim 4, wherein the said driving means comprises lid driving means for pulling the lid sheet.

6. A device according to claim 5, comprising a rotatable index wheel having recesses therein, the wheel being engageable with the medicament pack so that the recesses each receive a respective pocket.

7. A device according to claim 6, wherein the index wheel and the lid driving means are interconnected so that the rotation of one correlates with the rotation of the other.

8. A device according to claim 7, wherein the index wheel and lid driving means are interconnected by a slipping clutch.

9. A device according to claim 8, wherein the slipping clutch comprises a first gear member which is movable with the index wheel and has a toothed surface, and a second toothed gear member which is movable with the lid driving means and has a toothed surface in meshing engagement with the toothed surface of the said first gear member, at least one of the toothed surfaces having a toothed portion which is movable back and forth with respect to the remainder of the toothed surface of which it is part.

10. A device according to claim 8, wherein the slipping clutch comprises first clutch means movable with the index wheel and second clutch means movable with the lid driving means, one of the clutch means comprising an annular array of serrations and the other of the clutch means comprising means which grippingly engage the serrations when less than a predetermined force is applied between the two clutch means and which slip with respect to the serrations when a force equal to or greater than the predetermined force is applied.

11. A device according to claim 7, wherein the lid driving means comprises a wheel on which the lid sheet is wound up, the said wheel having a winding surface

which decreases in diameter when tension in the lid sheet increases.

12. A device according to claim 11, wherein the said wheel comprises a plurality of resiliently flexible arms each extending therefrom at an angle with respect to a radius.

13. A device according to claim 4, comprising indexing means engageable between adjacent pockets to cause each pocket in turn to be positioned in communication with the outlet.

14. A device according to claim 5, wherein the lid driving means comprises a pair of driving wheels which drivingly engage the lid sheet between them.

15. A device according to claim 14, wherein the said driving wheels are toothed wheels having interengaging teeth.

16. A device according to claim 4, comprising means for guiding the lid sheet and base sheet along separate paths at the opening station, the paths reuniting downstream of the opening station, the said driving means being located after the point where the paths

reunite and being operable to drive both the lid sheet and base sheet.

17. A device according to claim 16, wherein the said driving means comprises a pair of toothed wheels having interengaging teeth.

18. A device according to claim 4, comprising at least one chamber for receiving the elongate medicament pack before opening, and for receiving the base sheet and lid sheet after peeling apart.

19. A device according to claim 18, wherein the elongate medicament pack and/or base sheet are held in coiled form by resilient coil-formers.

20. A device according to claim 1, operable in a plurality of steps, which comprises indicator means adapted to display to a user an instruction as to the next step once the preceding step has been taken.

21. A device according to claim 20, wherein the indicator means comprises an indicator member which carries a plurality of legends each constituting an instruction to the user, the indicator member being movable by a given step being carried out to display

the legend relating to the next step.

22. A medicament pack for use in an inhalation device, the pack comprising an elongate strip formed from a base sheet having a plurality of recesses spaced along its length and a lid sheet hermetically but peelably sealed thereto to define a plurality of containers, each container having therein inhalable medicament in powder form.

23. A medicament pack as claimed in claim 22, wherein the strip is sufficiently flexible to be wound into a roll.

24. A medicament pack as claimed in claim 22, wherein the lid sheet and base sheet have leading end portions which are not sealed to one another.

25. A medicament pack as claimed in claim 24, wherein at least one of the said leading end portions is provided with means enabling it to be attached to a winding means.

26. A medicament pack as claimed in claim 22, wherein the hermetic seal between the base and lid sheets extends over their whole width.